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Idaho Milk Production up 8.3 Percent

Idaho milk production during February 2006 totaled 795 million pounds, an 8.3 percent increase from the same month last year, but down 71 million pounds from January 2006. Revised production for January 2006 totaled 866 million pounds, down 14 million pounds from the preliminary estimate but 8.5 percent above January 2005. Average milk production per cow in February 2006 was 1,680 pounds, down 150 pounds from January 2006, but unchanged from February 2005. The average number of milk cows during February was 473,000 head, unchanged from January 2006, but up 36,000 head from February 2005.

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 118,000 head more than January 2005.

Milk Production, Average Number of Cows, Selected States, February 2005-2006

| State | Milk Cows 1/ | | Milk Per Cow 2/ | | Milk Production 2/ | | Change From 2005 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 | |
| | 1,000 Head | | Pounds | | Million Pounds | | Percent |
| Arizona | 164 | 166 | 1,840 | 1,930 | 302 | 320 | 6.0 |
| California | 1,742 | 1,781 | 1,635 | 1,705 | 2,848 | 3,037 | 6.6 |
| Colorado | 100 | 106 | 1,720 | 1,795 | 172 | 190 | 10.5 |
| Florida | 139 | 134 | 1,475 | 1,440 | 205 | 193 | -5.9 |
| IDAHO | 437 | 473 | 1,680 | 1,680 | 734 | 795 | 8.3 |
| Illinois | 105 | 104 | 1,500 | 1,540 | 158 | 160 | 1.3 |
| Indiana | 155 | 162 | 1,600 | 1,575 | 248 | 255 | 2.8 |
| Iowa | 190 | 200 | 1,615 | 1,630 | 307 | 326 | 6.2 |
| Kansas | 109 | 111 | 1,575 | 1,620 | 172 | 180 | 4.7 |
| Kentucky | 110 | 101 | 1,000 | 1,050 | 110 | 106 | -3.6 |
| Michigan | 308 | 314 | 1,660 | 1,725 | 511 | 542 | 6.1 |
| Minnesota | 455 | 450 | 1,405 | 1,480 | 639 | 666 | 4.2 |
| Missouri | 117 | 114 | 1,230 | 1,320 | 144 | 150 | 4.2 |
| New Mexico | 320 | 344 | 1,560 | 1,700 | 499 | 585 | 17.2 |
| New York | 650 | 649 | 1,415 | 1,485 | 920 | 964 | 4.8 |
| Ohio | 267 | 273 | 1,370 | 1,390 | 366 | 379 | 3.6 |
| Oregon | 120 | 121 | 1,460 | 1,430 | 175 | 173 | -1.1 |
| Pennsylvania | 560 | 555 | 1,420 | 1,550 | 795 | 860 | 8.2 |
| Texas | 317 | 325 | 1,560 | 1,755 | 495 | 570 | 15.2 |
| Vermont | 143 | 143 | 1,430 | 1,450 | 204 | 207 | 1.5 |
| Virginia | 105 | 103 | 1,345 | 1,410 | 141 | 145 | 2.8 |
| Washington | 237 | 236 | 1,805 | 1,790 | 428 | 422 | -1.4 |
| Wisconsin | 1,234 | 1,240 | 1,400 | 1,455 | 1,728 | 1,804 | 4.4 |
| 23 STATE TOTAL | 8,084 | 8,205 | 1,522 | 1,588 | 12,301 | 13,029 | 5.9 |

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

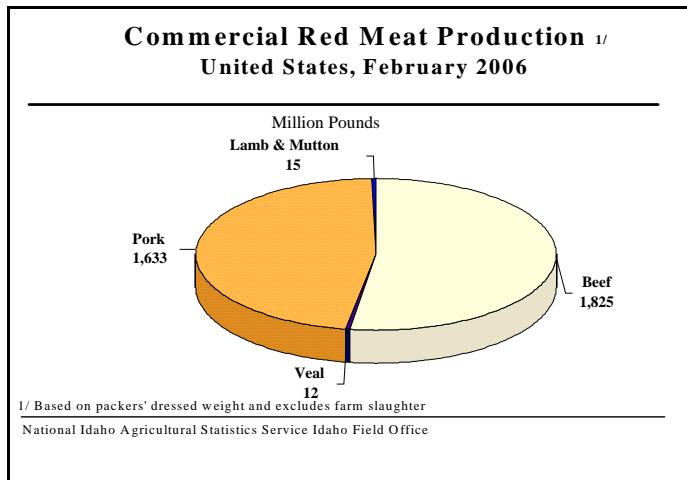
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Idaho Red Meat Production Up 33 Percent

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for February 2006 totaled 24.0 million pounds, up 33 percent from last year according to the. February production was up 2 percent from the 23.5 million pounds produced in January. Accumulated red meat production for the January-February 2006 period totaled 47.5 million pounds, up 17 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005. Beef production, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,000 head, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight was 35 pounds above last year, at 362 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005.

The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.



Commercial Red Meat Production, Selected States and United States ^{1/}

| State | February 2005 | January 2006 | February 2006 | February 2006 As Percent Of ^{2/} | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| | | | | February 2005 | January 2006 |
| | <i>Million Pounds</i> | | | <i>Percent</i> | |
| California | 107.3 | 129.7 | 115.8 | 108 | 89 |
| Colorado | 128.6 | 148.9 | 137.9 | 107 | 93 |
| IDAHO | 18.0 | 23.5 | 24.0 | 133 | 102 |
| Illinois | 207.4 | 226.4 | 211.1 | 102 | 93 |
| Iowa | 508.4 | 577.7 | 513.9 | 101 | 89 |
| Kansas | 423.4 | 469.4 | 413.5 | 98 | 88 |
| Minnesota | 182.3 | 206.9 | 180.0 | 99 | 87 |
| Montana | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 109 | 96 |
| Nebraska | 511.9 | 571.6 | 525.7 | 103 | 92 |
| Nevada | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 95 | 86 |
| Oklahoma | 78.3 | 91.6 | 82.0 | 105 | 90 |
| Oregon | 2.9 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 128 | 92 |
| South Dakota | 77.7 | 91.1 | 85.1 | 110 | 93 |
| Texas | 320.5 | 378.2 | 316.6 | 99 | 84 |
| Utah | 34.0 | 40.3 | 39.1 | 115 | 97 |
| Washington | 47.8 | 60.8 | 57.1 | 120 | 94 |
| Wyoming | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 101 | 84 |
| UNITED STATES | 3,423.8 | 3,890.4 | 3,483.8 | 102 | 90 |

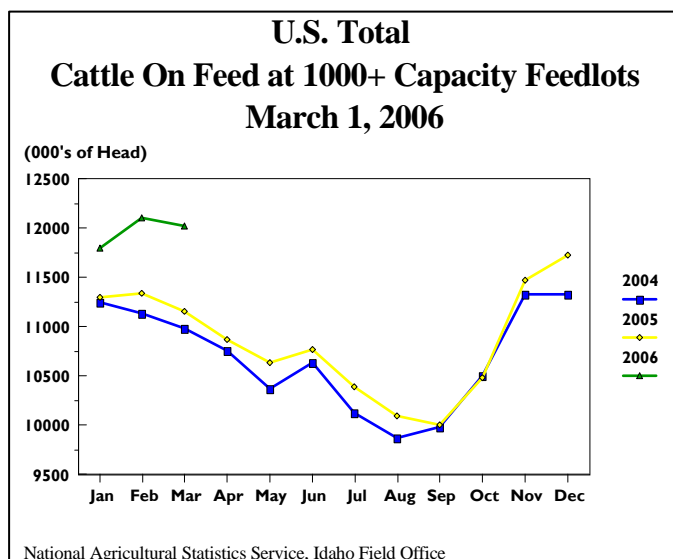
^{1/} Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. ^{2/} Percentages based on unrounded data.

Idaho Cattle On Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle on feed for the slaughter market in Idaho from feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head on March 1, 2006 totaled 255,000 head, up 2 percent from the March 1, 2005 inventory. The inventory was down 4 percent from the number on hand February 1, 2006. Placements of cattle into State feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during February totaled 32,000 head, down 1,000 head from February 2005 placements. Marketings during February totaled 38,000 head, down 14,000 from February 2005 marketings.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. The inventory was 8 percent above March 1, 2005 and 9 percent above March 1, 2004.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005 but 1 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 510,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 433,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. Other disappearance totaled 73,000 during February, 5 percent below 2005 but 6 percent above 2004.



Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots^{1/}

| State | Mar. 1, 2005 | Feb. 1, 2006 | March 1, 2006 | | |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | Number | As % of 2005 | As % of Feb. |
| | ---1,000 Head--- | | ---Percent--- | | |
| Arizona | 324 | 346 | 351 | 108 | 101 |
| California | 515 | 550 | 550 | 107 | 100 |
| Colorado | 1,040 | 1,110 | 1,090 | 105 | 98 |
| Idaho | 250 | 265 | 255 | 102 | 96 |
| Iowa | 465 | 520 | 520 | 112 | 100 |
| Kansas | 2,370 | 2,580 | 2,610 | 110 | 101 |
| Nebraska | 2,320 | 2,490 | 2,450 | 106 | 98 |
| New Mexico | 125 | 146 | 143 | 114 | 98 |
| Oklahoma | 340 | 375 | 365 | 107 | 97 |
| South Dakota | 210 | 210 | 210 | 100 | 100 |
| Texas | 2,690 | 3,030 | 3,010 | 112 | 99 |
| Washington | 185 | 153 | 154 | 83 | 101 |
| Other States | 320 | 335 | 315 | 98 | 94 |
| United States | 11,154 | 12,110 | 12,023 | 108 | 99 |

^{1/}Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

Stocks in Cold Storage

Frozen stocks of French fries in the United States on February 28, 2006 totaled 925 million pounds, an 8 percent increase from January 31, 2006, and up 2 percent from February 28, 2005. Other frozen potatoes, at 232 million pounds, are up 5 percent from last month but down 7 percent from a year ago.

United States stocks of butter on February 28, 2006 totaled 152 million pounds, up 38 percent from the end of the previous month, and up 37 percent from a year ago. Of this 152 million pounds, the government owned 156,000 pounds. Stocks of total American cheese totaled 549 million pounds, up 3 percent from January 31, 2006, and up 9 percent from February 28, 2005. Of the 549 million pounds, the government owned 273,000 pounds.

| Commodity | Feb 28, 2005 | Jan 31, 2006 | Feb 28, 2006 | 2006 |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| | | | | 2005 |
| POTATOES: | | | | |
| French Fries | 903,956 | 854,985 | 924,526 | 102 |
| Other Frozen | 248,862 | 221,241 | 231,570 | 93 |
| TOTAL | 1,152,818 | 1,076,226 | 1,156,096 | 100 |
| DAIRY : | | | | |
| Butter, Total | 110,876 | 110,072 | 151,678 | 137 |
| (Gov't Owned) | 100 | 241 | 156 | 156 |
| Natural Cheese | | | | |
| American, Total | 504,979 | 532,873 | 548,524 | 109 |
| (Gov't Owned) | 2,694 | 269 | 273 | 10 |

Potato Stocks

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on March 1 totaled 55.0 million cwt, 9.00 million cwt less than on hand March 1, 2005. Disappearance, at 62.0 million cwt, is down from last year's 68.0 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 3.00 million cwt, down from last year's revised 3.40 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 52.0 million cwt, were 8.60 million cwt less than the amount stored on March 1, 2005.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 154 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2006, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below March 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Disappearance of 219 million cwt of potatoes is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt so far this season, is down 18 percent from last year for comparable States.

PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON MARCH 1, 2005 AND MARCH 1, 2006 1/

| STATE | CROP OF 2004 | | | CROP 2005 | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| | PRODUCTION | TOTAL STOCKS MARCH 1, 2005 2/ | MARCH 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION | PRODUCTION | TOTAL STOCKS MARCH 1, 2006 | MARCH 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION |
| | <u>1,000 Cwt</u> | | <u>Percent</u> | <u>1,000 Cwt</u> | | <u>Percent</u> |
| California | 3,648 | 1,500 | 41 | 3,240 | 900 | 28 |
| Colorado | 23,791 | 11,900 | 50 | 22,292 | 10,200 | 46 |
| Idaho | 131,970 | 64,000 | 48 | 116,975 | 55,000 | 47 |
| Maine | 19,065 | 9,400 | 49 | 15,736 | 8,700 | 55 |
| Michigan | 13,650 | 3,600 | 26 | 13,920 | 3,600 | 26 |
| Minnesota | 18,920 | 8,800 | 47 | 17,630 | 7,100 | 40 |
| Montana | 3,551 | 2,400 | 68 | 3,434 | 2,900 | 84 |
| Nebraska | 9,288 | | | 8,245 | 3,300 | 40 |
| New York | 5,184 | 700 | 14 | 5,226 | 1,300 | 25 |
| N. Dakota | 26,765 | 13,100 | 49 | 20,500 | 6,700 | 33 |
| Ohio 3/ | 1,080 | | | | | |
| Oregon | 19,775 | 9,000 | 46 | 22,023 | 11,500 | 52 |
| Pennsylvania 3/ | 2,640 | 700 | 27 | | | |
| Washington | 93,810 | 29,000 | 31 | 95,480 | 32,000 | 34 |
| Wisconsin | 30,450 | 10,700 | 35 | 27,880 | 10,500 | 38 |
| Other States | | 3,220 | | | | |
| 15 STATES 4/ | 403,587 | 168,020 | 42 | 372,581 | 153,700 | 41 |

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.

2/ Missing stocks combined into "Other States". 3/ Stock estimates discontinued in 2005. 4/ 13 States for the 2005 crop.